

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the presently pending claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for maintaining a database of objects accessible by a plurality of applications comprising:
  - requesting to store an instance of an object implemented in a first programming language into a database;
  - providing at least one structured document representing the instance of the object including attributes and attribute values defined for a class; and
  - adding content of the structured document representing the object into the database, wherein the said database storing stores multiple structured documents representing multiple objects, and
  - sharing the multiple structured documents representing multiple objects with a second application of said plurality of applications.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - receiving multiple structured documents representing instances of objects defined for the class, wherein the objects represented in at least two different received structured documents were generated in different programming languages.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein application programs implemented in different programming languages can share objects represented as structured documents in the database.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the database comprises a structured document, and wherein adding the content of each structured document representing one object comprises inserting the content of the structured document representing the object into the structured document implementing the database.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the database structured document and the structured documents representing the objects are in a same file format.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the same file format comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document format.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the structured document comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein all the objects represented as structured document content in the database are instantiated from a same class.

9. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a database of objects by a plurality of applications, comprising:

requesting a first application of said plurality to obtain in a programming language an instance of at least one object from a database storing at least one structured document representing one or more objects;

obtaining from the database the instance of the least one object including attributes and attribute values defined for a class;

generating a structured document representing the least one object and including a representation of the attributes and attribute values in the object; and

providing the structured document- and:

sharing the multiple structured documents representing multiple objects with said plurality of applications.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

receiving the structured document from the database representing attributes and attribute values for the least one object; and

generating an object including the attributes and attribute values represented in the structured document, wherein the generated object embodies the object represented by the received structured document, and the generated object is implemented in the programming language.

11. (Currently amended) A method of generating at least one structured object accessible by a plurality of applications, The method of claim 9, wherein generating the at least one object further comprises:

(i) generating an instance of a first object including attributes and attribute values defined for the class in a first programming language; and

(ii) generating an instance of a second object including attributes and attribute values defined for the class in a second programming language;

wherein generating one structured document for each generated object further comprises:

(i) generating a first structured document representing the first object; and

(ii) generating a second structured document representing the second object.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein application programs implemented in the first and second programming languages are capable of sharing objects represented as structured documents in the database.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the database comprises a structured document, and wherein adding the content of the structured documents representing the objects comprises inserting the content into the database structured document.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the database structured document and the structured documents representing the objects are in a same file format.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the same file format comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document format.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the structured document comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein all the objects represented as structured document content in the database are instantiated from a same class.

18. (Currently amended) A system for maintaining a database of objects accessible by a plurality of applications, comprising:

means for requesting by a first application of said plurality of applications to store an instance of an object implemented in a programming language into a database;

means for providing at least one structured document representing the instance of the object including attributes and attribute values defined for a class; and

means for adding content of the structured document representing the object into the database, wherein the database stores storing multiple structured documents representing multiple objects, and

sharing the multiple structured documents representing multiple objects with a second application of said plurality of applications.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, further comprising:

means for receiving multiple structured documents representing instances of objects defined for the class, wherein the objects represented in at least two different received structured documents were generated in different programming languages.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein application programs implemented in different programming languages can share objects represented as structured documents in the database.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the database comprises a structured document, and wherein adding the content of each structured document representing one object comprises inserting the content of the structured document representing the object into the structured document implementing the database.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the database structured document and the structured documents representing the objects are in a same file format.

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the same file format comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document format.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the structured document comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein all the objects represented as structured document content in the database are instantiated from a same class.

26. (currently amended) A system for accessing a database of objects by a plurality of applications, comprising:

means for requesting by a first application of said plurality to obtain in a programming language an instance of at least one object from a database storing at least one structured document representing one or more objects;

means for obtaining from the database the instance of the least one object including attributes and attribute values defined for a class;

means for generating a structured document representing the least one object and including a representation of the attributes and attribute values in the object; and

means for providing the structured document;

wherein the structured document is accessible by said plurality of applications.

27. (previously presented) The system of claim 26, further comprising:

means for receiving a the structured document from the database representing attributes and attribute values for one the least one object; and

means for generating an object including the attributes and attribute values represented in the structured document, wherein the generated object embodies the object represented by the received structured document, and the generated object is implemented in the programming language.

28. (Currently amended) A system for generating at least one structured document accessible by a plurality of applications ~~The system of claim 26~~, wherein the means for generating the at least one object further performs:

(i) generating an instance of a first object including attributes and attribute values defined for the class in a first programming language; and

(ii) generating an instance of a second object including attributes and attribute values defined for the class in a second programming language;

wherein the means for generating one structured document for each generated object further performs:

- (i) generating a first structured document representing the first object; and
- (ii) generating a second structured document representing the second object.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein application programs implemented in the first and second programming languages are capable of sharing objects represented as structured documents in the database.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the database comprises a structured document, and wherein adding the content of the structured documents representing the objects comprises inserting the content into the database structured document.

31. (previously presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the database structured document and the structured documents representing the objects are in a same file format.

32. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the same file format comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document format.

33. (previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the structured document comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

34. (previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein all the objects represented as structured document content in the database are instantiated from a same class.

35. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture for maintaining a database of objects accessible by a plurality of applications, wherein the article of manufacture comprises code implemented in a computer readable medium capable of causing a processor to perform:

requesting by a first application of said plurality of applications to store an instance of an object implemented in a programming language into a database;

providing at least one structured document representing the instance of the object including attributes and attribute values defined for a class; and

adding content of the structured document representing the object into the database, ~~wherein the said database stores storing~~ multiple structured documents representing multiple objects, and

sharing the multiple structured documents representing multiple objects with a second application of said plurality of applications.

36. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the code is further capable of causing the processor to perform:

receiving multiple structured documents representing instances of objects defined for the class, wherein the objects represented in at least two different received structured documents were generated in different programming languages.

37. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein application programs implemented in different programming languages can share objects represented as structured documents in the database.

38. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the database comprises a structured document, and wherein adding the content of each structured document representing one object comprises inserting the content of the structured document representing the object into the structured document implementing the database.

39. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the database structured document and the structured documents representing the objects are in a same file format.

40. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the same file format comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document format.

41. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the structured document comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

42. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein all the objects represented as structured document content in the database are instantiated from a same class.

43. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture for accessing a database of objects by a plurality of applications, wherein the article of manufacture comprises code implemented in a computer readable medium capable of causing a processor to perform:

requesting by a first application of said plurality to obtain an instance in a programming language of at least one object from a database storing at least one structured document representing one or more objects;

obtaining from the database the instance of the least one object including attributes and attribute values defined for a class;

generating a structured document representing the least one object and including a representation of the attributes and attribute values in the object; and

providing the structured document; and

sharing the multiple structured documents representing multiple objects with a second application of said plurality of applications.

44. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein the code is further capable of causing the processor to perform:

receiving the structured document from the database representing attributes and attribute values for the least one object; and

generating an object including the attributes and attribute values represented in the structured document, wherein the generated object embodies the object represented by the received structured document, and the generated object is implemented in the programming language.

45. (Currently amended) An The article of manufacture for generating a plurality of structured documents accessibly by a plurality of applications of claim 43, wherein generating the at least one object ~~further~~ comprises:

(i) generating an instance of a first object including attributes and attribute values defined for the class in a first programming language; and

(ii) generating an instance of a second object including attributes and attribute values defined for the class in a second programming language;

wherein generating one structured document for each generated object further comprises:

- (i) generating a first structured document representing the first object; and
- (ii) generating a second structured document representing the second object.

46. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 45, wherein application programs implemented in the first and second programming languages are capable of sharing objects represented as structured documents in the database.

47. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein the database comprises a structured document, and wherein adding the content of the structured documents representing the objects comprises inserting the content into the database structured document.

48. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein the database structured document and the structured documents representing the objects are in a same file format.

49. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 48, wherein the same file format comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document format.

50. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein the structured document comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

51. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein all the objects represented as structured document content in the database are instantiated from a same class.

52. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including a computer database of objects accessibly by a plurality of applications, comprising:

at least one structured document in a first application of said plurality representing an instance of an object including attributes and attribute values defined for a class, wherein the database stores multiple structured documents representing multiple objects accessibly by a plurality of applications, wherein the instance of the object is implemented in a programming language; and

a database interface to receive a request by one of said plurality of applications to store the instance of the object to the database and to store content of the structured document representing the instance of the object into the database.

53. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the database stores multiple structured documents representing instances of objects defined for the class, and wherein the objects represented in at least two different structured documents stored in the database were generated in different programming languages.

54. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein application programs implemented in different programming languages can share objects represented as structured documents in the database.

55. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the database comprises a structured document, and wherein structured documents representing objects are added to the database by inserting the content of the structured document representing the object into the structured document implementing the database.

56. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 55, wherein the database structured document and the structured documents representing the objects are in a same file format.

57. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 56, wherein the same file format comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document format.

58. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the structured document comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

59. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein all the objects represented as structured document content in the database are instantiated from a same class.